



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 4414

“Jesus knows well the
pain
of not being
welcomed and how
hard it is
not to have
a place to lay one's
head.
May our hearts not be
closed
as they were
in the homes
of Bethlehem.”

- Pope Francis



Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

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Pastor

- Jeff Jackson

Financial Secretary

- Joy Garapic

Office Manager

- Miranda Lacefield

****LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST****

- Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.
- Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.

Announcements:

Please submit the announcements you would like to have printed in the bulletin by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!

UN-Hanging the Greens- Please lend a hand following worship on JANUARY 4 to take down and store our beautiful holiday decor. This job always goes quickly, especially with many hands. Thank you in advance!

Colony Cupboard- We are continuing to support the Colony Cupboard! This is a resource for students at Brecksville Broadview Hts High School who need essentials and school supplies. We donated a trunk full of supplies this summer and plan to make another donation over the holidays. Based on student needs for the new school year, below is the updated list of supplies they are requesting:
Markers, highlighters, binders, graph paper, & headphones
Donations are collected in the back of the church.

Mitten Tree- The annual mitten tree is in the narthex. Last year we filled the tree over 4 times and the items were delivered to the shelters. Note that scarfs, mittens, gloves and even unopened packages of socks are always needed this time of year.

Special Thank You to this week's guest musician Eric Brubaker!

Attendance last Sunday, December 21st, 2025 – Adults: 49; Kids: 4; Online: 5;
Additional Views: 17; Total: 75



To Donate Electronically – If you would like to make a donation to Brecksville United Church of Christ with your phone, please scan this QR code. If you need assistance, ask an usher - or a grandchild. Thank you!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following

Tue. Dec 30 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
Wed. Dec 31 11:00 am – Mindfulness and Meditation
Thu. Jan 1 Happy New Year *OFFICE CLOSED*

Volunteers:

	<u>December 28, 2025</u>	<u>January 4, 2026</u>
Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Diane Gressley	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	Sue Stenzel	Lori Molesky
Reader:	Sherrill Witt	Jim Duffy
Flowers:	Christmas Poinsettias	Christmas Poinsettias
Counters:	Jan Renovetz	Volunteers Needed
	Sue Stenzel	Volunteers Needed
A/V:	Volunteers Needed	Fred Pedersen
Snack:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Set up:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Sherrill Witt	Volunteers Needed
Communion Bread:	N/A	Gayle Colbert
Snow Herder:	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday December 28th, 2025

Prelude Jesus Entered Egypt (Adam M. L. Tice)

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

Saving God, guard every vulnerable child.

*Call to Prayer

Leader: In this Christmas season, God draws near—quietly, faithfully, tenderly.

People: **We come to worship the One who carries us through every uncertainty.**

Leader: The Holy Child was protected by God's guiding love.

People: **And that same love shelters every wandering heart.**

Leader: God is with all who journey, all who hope, all who long for peace.

People: **God's presence makes a home wherever love is chosen.**

Leader: Come, let us welcome the God who leads us into life.

People: **With gratitude and trust, we open our hearts to Emmanuel—God with us.**

*Hymn of Praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#144

*Prayer of Invocation [Unison]

Holy and Loving God,

you come to us with quiet strength and faithful care. Open our hearts to your presence this morning—

to the peace that steadies us, the guidance that leads us forward, and the hope you place within us.

Shape our thoughts and intentions so that we may walk in your light and welcome your renewing love. Amen.

*Assurance of Grace

***Gathering Song**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa 1988



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glory to God in the high - est, And on earth be
peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.

First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior

in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Second Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt

and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,
"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."
Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.
But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.
There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Time with young worshipers

Sermon A Refugee God - Rev. Jeff Jackson

Anthem Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Prayers of the Church

In our Prayers

Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Tina Ortiz, Cindy Burton, Jan Wardlaw, Kathleen Stewart, Kathy Repko, Lois Lorenzo, Tony Cunningham, Chad Sproul, Dot and Stu Bailey, Jane Cribbs, Kathy Ford, Midge Cassidy,

"Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)



Pastoral Prayer

Silent Meditation

The Savior's Prayer: [Unison]

Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

Invitation to the Offering



Offering Music

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication: [Unison]**

Generous God,
in this season of your coming,
we give thanks for every gift of mercy and hope.
Receive what we offer today,
and use it to bless, to comfort, and to build up your people.
Guide us to share your love with steady hearts
and open hands.
Amen.

***Hymn of Departure**

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

#129

***Circle of Community** Please join us in a circle around the sanctuary and lift your voices together and again after the benediction.

A E A D Bm E
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.
A C#7 F#m E7sus4 E7 A
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

***Benediction**

Postlude

O God of Every Nation

Go, and let the light of safety and compassion shine.

BUCC Core Values

Inclusiveness in all things

Community of acceptance love and forgiveness

Unleashing people's gift of ministry to grow through serving others

Environment of learning and spiritual growth

Creative and dynamic worship

Reaching out and welcoming the community

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming ALL of God's children.

Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

We welcome one another to this place,

Even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!